

What Farm Bureau does for you

Whatever kind of farm or ranch you have, public policy is part of your life. From water to roads, taxes to trade, EPA to ODA, nearly every area of law and regulation impacts your business. Farm Bureau was founded by farmers and ranchers nearly 100 years ago with this simple notion: We have a stronger voice when we speak together. Joining with 7,000 member farm and ranch families across Oregon, there is no more effective way to amplify your voice in the legislative arena than Farm Bureau.

Since its 1919 origins in Oregon, Farm Bureau's issue positions are created and approved by family farmers and ranchers. These members live and work in all 36 Oregon counties, produce every one of Oregon's 220+ ag products, and represent all sizes and types of production. What and how you farm is up to you. If your livelihood depends on agriculture, you are welcome to join and participate.

Farm Bureau is based at the county level. Your membership and voice start there. Beyond Oregon, you also are part of the nearly 6-million-member-strong American Farm Bureau, the world's largest, most esteemed "agvoacy" organization.

Beyond public policy

You can easily recoup the cost of annual dues — and enjoy many more savings — through Farm Bureau's members-only discount programs.

Save \$500 on a new or leased GM truck or car; get \$200-\$300 off Polaris off-road vehicles; receive \$300-\$500 off certain Case-IH tractors or implements; and save up to 50% on Grainger purchases. Eligible farmers and ranchers can get a substantial **Verizon discount** for business lines. Also find savings on propane, prescription medications, hotel stays, rental cars, and more. Farm Bureau members are eligible for COUNTRY Financial insurance and other fine services.

Members with farm stands, u-pick fields, on-farm festivals, CSAs, etc. can be included in OFB's renowned *Oregon's Bounty* guide and website, the state's most comprehensive listing of direct-market ag ventures open to the public.

Stay informed

As a Voting or Supporting Farm Bureau member, you will receive six issues of the award-winning printed *OFB Newsletter*, an *OFB Annual Report*, a copy of *Oregon's Bounty* magazine, and the award-winning *Oregon's Bounty* calendar.



"Farm Bureau is a grass-roots, county-based organization. Farms and ranches of all sizes, commodities, and production methods have an opportunity to bring their issues forward and have their voices heard."

Barry Bushue, OFB President

Family farmer raising a variety of vegetables & berries, also in farmers market



Between publications, keep current with Farm Bureau's work on your behalf via the emailed *OFB Update*, where you'll receive weekly information about state and national issues, calls to action, Farm Bureau events, ag industry news, photos, fun stuff, and more. Sign up by sending your name and county to annemarie@oregonfb.org.

Also follow OFB on Facebook at facebook.com/OFBinfo and Twitter at [@OreFarmBureau](https://twitter.com/OreFarmBureau).

Join Oregon agriculture's best grassroots network

Farm Bureau is a true grassroots organization, with family farmers and ranchers guiding OFB's work in the legislative arena. Voting members can engage in their county Farm Bureau, present their individual concerns — and work with Farm Bureau to get something done.

Through your county and state Farm Bureau, you will also have access to ag industry experts, issue forums, leadership development opportunities, and ways to educate the public about agriculture. See the enclosed county meeting schedule, and find your county Farm Bureau president contact at oregonfb.org or contact OFB at 800.334.6323, tiffany@oregonfb.org.



"Things we take for granted are there because of Farm Bureau: the farm use assessment, the F-plate, favorable truck regulations, higher estate tax exemptions, and many more. Achieving these laws is one thing, defending them from constant attack is another. Farm Bureau does both."

Peggy Browne
Baker County farmer & rancher

At the OFB Annual Meeting in December, hundreds of members meet to determine Farm Bureau's political goals, vote on officer positions, receive state and federal issue updates, and enjoy the company of fellow farmers and ranchers.

Whatever your level of involvement, your membership in Farm Bureau helps get the results farm and ranch families rely on.

Types of membership

Voting Farm Bureau members must generate at least \$2,500 in gross income from farming or ranching activities. Voting members can participate in their county Farm Bureau, attend meetings, serve on committees, and vote on policies that guide OFB's priorities and work.

Supporting members are those who are not farmers, but who support family agriculture in Oregon. Lenders, equipment repair or sales operations, and others who depend on ag producers in their businesses can join as Supporting members and have access to all Farm Bureau benefits.

Your money doesn't go as far on the farm or in town these days, but for only about \$10 a month, you can become part of the strongest voice in agriculture. If you use nearly any discount program, your true cost is far less. After they join, many members repeat the old refrain, "Farm Bureau membership doesn't cost. It pays."



What has OFB done lately?

OFB's primary objective is to advocate for public policy that protects and supports family farmers and ranchers. Following are some recent Farm Bureau accomplishments:

- **Hot Goods issue:** OFB created a legal strategy for Oregon farmers subjected to the U.S. Dept. of Labor's misuse of its "hot goods" and other powers against Oregon blueberry farms. We raised over \$40,000 to help those farmers fight the department in court and win in front of three federal judges. OFB successfully sued USDOL for public documents on the matter that it tried to conceal. We worked with Oregon Congressman Kurt Schrader to pass language in the Farm Bill that protects farmers from the department's unchecked use of these powers in the future.
- OFB successfully fought a bill to eliminate your **personal property tax exemptions** on equipment, crops, livestock, and more.
- OFB was essential in the passage of a **15% tax credit for farmers donating crops** to food banks.
- OFB worked hard to pass legislation that **prevents a patchwork of differing laws** for agriculture across Oregon.
- OFB successfully advocated to further **protect farm ground** from aggregate mining.
- OFB pushed for legislation that retains your **right to replace "bad" dwellings** on your property.
- Nationally, Farm Bureau led the charge that stopped the U.S. Dept. of Labor's **ill-conceived work rules** for minors.
- Today we are leading the fight to stop the EPA's efforts to regulate all water on private land with our **Ditch The Rule** campaign.

Get to know Farm Bureau programs

Learn more about each program at oregonfb.org or call 800.334.6323.

YF&R: Young Farmers & Ranchers is a group within Farm Bureau specifically for agriculture producers between the ages of 16 and 35. YF&R gives members the tools to become effective "advocates" for agriculture, and many opportunities for travel, leadership development, networking, and fun!

Scholarships: At the state and county level, Farm Bureau awards over \$60,000 worth of scholarships to Oregon students every year.



FEELDS: The Farm Employer Education & Legal Defense Service helps Farm Bureau members keep up with ever-changing state and federal regulations. FEELDS identifies its clients' business strengths and areas that need extra attention, and provides guidance on managing employment situations.



Century Farm & Ranch: The Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education's Century Farm & Ranch program is one of the oldest agricultural heritage recognitions in the nation. It honors farms and ranches that have remained operational and within the same family for at least 100 years. A Sesquicentennial status is available for those that have reached the 150-year mark.

Summer Ag Institute: An Oregon Farm Bureau Foundation for Education program, SAI is a graduate-level class through Oregon State University that educates K-12 teachers about agriculture. The goal is to help educators use agriculture as a context for teaching standard subjects like science, math, social studies, and English. Since its first summer in 1989, SAI has enrolled 1,300 teachers, impacting 30,000 students and promoting the importance of agriculture to society.

Rural development: Farm Bureau's work to support Oregon's rural communities includes workshops designed to help landowners expand their businesses, and regional ag issue forums that bring together local stakeholders for updates, networking, and action plans.

Ag tours: Farm Bureau offers regional agriculture tours for members, and also for lawmakers to help them better understand the issues facing farm and ranch families.

Get connected

Find contact information for your county Farm Bureau president — and learn more about OFB — at oregonfb.org or call 800.334.6323.



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"When legislators tried to bring back the personal property tax on Oregon's family farms and ranches, Farm Bureau was there to stop them. Without that win, we'd be paying more taxes and dealing with more paperwork."

Jon Iverson

Clackamas County diversified farmer



"Water quality regulations and water supply are enormous challenges for family agriculture. Nobody understands these issues better and is more effective at getting good results than Farm Bureau."

Phil Hassinger

Union County farmer



"Farm Bureau and its foundation provide over \$60,000 a year in college scholarships, run two graduate programs with OSU to teach teachers about agriculture, and recognize Oregon's century and 150-year-old farms and ranches."

Holly Michaels

Douglas County rancher



Monthly County Farm Bureau Meetings

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
First Week		Douglas Klamath-Lake	Baker Polk	Coos-Curry	Deschutes Gilliam		
Second Week		Linn	Wasco Yamhill	Harney Marion	Clackamas Jefferson Umatilla-Morrow	Crook-Wheeler	
Third Week		Grant Josephine Tillamook	Jackson Malheur Washington	Benton Union	Multnomah		
Fourth Week		Columbia	Lane				

If your county isn't listed here, it's because that county's meeting times vary throughout the year. Before attending your first county Farm Bureau meeting, please ask for the time and location by contacting OFB at 800.334.6323 or tiffany@oregonfb.org. County contacts are also on oregonfb.org.



Locally grown & growing strong

Farm Bureau's strength comes from farmers and ranchers working together toward a common goal: to protect and promote Oregon agriculture. This unity is what makes Farm Bureau a family. There's nothing like the relationships you gain in Farm Bureau, friendships with people who care deeply about their crops, animals, land, and lifestyle. Whether you join to be part of the strongest voice in agriculture, or to save money in your operation, we believe your life will be enriched in countless other ways by this great family of producers.



"Farm Bureau gets a lot done for me in Salem and D.C., but it also helps

me fight back at the local level when bad decisions threaten farm and ranch families."

Jeff Thomas
Grant County orchardist



"Farm Bureau is a great way to meet other young farmers for networking,

leadership training, travel opportunities, and fun. You feel like you're really making a difference for the future of Oregon agriculture."

Kathy Hadley
Polk County farmer & rancher



"Farm Bureau is like a family. Members have similar interests and ways of

life. Although I raise cattle, I can relate to a hazelnut grower who has just survived a blight in his orchard or is facing a new regulation."

Dan Andersen
Malheur County farmer & rancher